

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00

USIE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 EPG-02

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4917

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10424

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)

SUBJ: TRANSCRIPT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY'S TV INTERVIEW

REF: STAE 165061

STATE FOR VANCE, S/PRS, PA: DEPT PASS NSC FOR DR
BRZEZINSKI, USIA FOR J THURBER IOP/G, WHITE HOUSE FOR
MR POWELL AND MR SCHECHTER; AMEMBASSY BANKOK FOR
DEPUTY SECRETARY'S PARTY

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF AN INTERVIEW WITH DEPUTY
SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AS RECORDED AND FILMED BY NEW DELHI
TV ON JULY 23, 1977:

QUESTION: YOU HAVE JUST MET OUR FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE
FINANCE MINISTER. WHAT HAS BEEN THE SUBSTANCE OF YOUR TALKS
WITH THE NEW INDIAN LEADERS?

CHRISTOPHER: WELL, I TOLD THEM HOW PLEASED I WAS TO BE
HERE IN INDIA, BUT I TOLD THEM THE TIME WAS MUCH TOO SHORT.
WE COVERED A VERY WIDE VARIETY OF THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS,
DISCUSSING THE BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
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AND INDIA, BUT THEN SWEEPING ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE WORLD'S
HORIZONS -- DISCUSSING AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, AS WELL AS
OTHER PROBLEMS HERE IN ASIA. I WOULD SAY THE CENTRAL THEME OF OUR
DISCUSSION WAS TO INDICATE HOW MUCH WE SHARED A SENSE
OF MORAL VALUES AND THEN TO ASK EACH OTHER WHAT MEANS WE COULD
TAKE TO BRING INTO ACTION THE MORAL VALUES WHICH ARE SO DEEPLY

SHARED BY OUR TWO
COUNTRIES.

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU VISUALIZE INDO-US RELATIONS, POLITICALLY AS WELL AS IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE?

CHRISTOPHER: I LOOK FOR A NEW ERA OF IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA. OUR PRESIDENT AND SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES ARE TREMENDOUSLY IMPRESSED BY THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS WHICH YOU HAVE HAD HERE AND THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW GOVERNMENT POPULARLY ELECTED. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS EXCHANGED SEVERAL LETTERS WITH YOUR PRIME MINISTER. THESE HAVE BEEN EXCHANGES WHICH HAVE BEEN BOTH SUBSTANTIVE AND WARM. SO I SEE US ON THE VERGE OF IMPROVING AND ENHANCED RELATIONSHIPS, BOTH IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FIELD.

QUESTION: WHAT WILL THE TRADE PATTERN BE LIKE BETWEEN INDIA AND THE US?

CHRISTOPHER: THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO A PROGRAM OF FREE TRADE, AND I KNOW THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS DETERMINED TO AVOID ANY PROTECTIONIST STEPS ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES, SO I WOULD SEE AN ENHANCED TRADE BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND INDIA OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE PRESSURES AROUND THE WORLD FOR PROTECTIONISM, WE ARE COMMITTED TO A PROGRAM OF FREE TRADE.

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PROTECTIONISM, AND ALTHOUGH OCCASIONALLY IT'S NECESSARY TO PROTECT A MARKET FROM EXTREME DISRUPTION, NEVERTHELESS THE UNITED STATES UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER IS COMMITTED TO A VERY FREE-TRADE PROGRAM, AND WE WOULD EXPECT THE TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO REFLECT THAT FREEDOM.

QUESTION: OUR FOREIGN MINISTER HAS TALKED ABOUT GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT, AND WE HAVE A NEW GOVERNMENT IN SRI LANKA AND CERTAIN CHANGES IN PAKISTAN ALSO. WHAT WILL BE THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARDS SOUTH ASIA AS A WHOLE?

CHRISTOPHER: WE SEE THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AS HAVING AN INCREASING ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IN SOUTH ASIA AS THE LARGEST COUNTRY IN THIS AREA. WE RESPECT THE NON-ALIGNMENT OF INDIA, AND WE KNOW THAT IT WILL BE A GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT UNDER THE COMMITMENTS MADE BY YOUR NEW GOVERNMENT. I THINK IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO SPEAK ABOUT THE GOVERNMENTS EITHER OF SRI LANKA OR PAKISTAN BECAUSE THAT IS A SITUATION IN ONE INSTANCE IN WHICH THE ELECTION HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE, AND IN THE OTHER INSTANCE, THE ELECTION IS SO RECENT THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN CONSTITUTED. BUT I WOULD SPEAK ABOUT INDIA'S ROLE WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM

AND WITH AN UNDERSTANDING THAT INDIA WILL TAKE A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THIS AREA, USING ITS GREAT MORAL AND OTHER INFLUENCE TO BE HELPFUL TO THE OTHER NATIONS OF SOUTH ASIA.

QUESTION: OUR PRIME MINISTER HAS ASSURED ON THE FLOOR OF THE PARLIAMENT THAT THE NUCLEAR ENERGY PROBES IN INDIA WILL BE ONLY USED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. DOES THE UNITED STATES ACCEPT IT TO SUPPLY URANIUM TO THE COUNTRY?

CHRISTOPHER: WE WELCOME THE STATEMENTS OF YOUR PRIME MINISTER AND WE PLACE GREAT TRUST IN THEM. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE JUST RECENTLY AGREED TO SUPPLY NUCLEAR FUEL TO YOUR REACTOR AT TARAPUR, AND STARTING NEXT WEEK WE WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE ADDITIONAL BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH YOU WITH RESPECT TO THE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES REGARDING NUCLEAR POWER. THAT IS, ONE OF THE IMPORTANT AREAS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS AND INDEED RELATIONS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. PRESIDENT CARTER IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES AND ABOUT THE PROLIFERATION OF TECHNOLOGIES WHICH PERMIT COUNTRIES TO MAKE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES. AT THE SAME TIME HE UNDERSTANDS THE NEEDS OF COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR POWER, AND ONE OF THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEXT DECADE WILL BE TO FIND WAYS TO GIVE COUNTRIES THE BENEFIT OF NUCLEAR POWER WITHOUT ENHANCING THE RISK OF A PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES.

COMMENTATOR: THANK YOU.

NOTE: DELHI TV EVENING NEWS IN HINDI USED FIRST TWO QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS; ENGLISH SERVICE USED INTERVIEW IN ENTIRETY. WILL BE SHOWN BOMBAY, MADRAS, CALCUTTA TV JULY 24.)
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